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INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0772
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0677
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0854
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0032
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0400
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0099
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2041
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0600
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0013
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0481
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0647
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 1322
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0111
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0007
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0276
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STATE FOR SCA

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TAGS: PTER PHUM PINS PREL MARR CE SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS RESPONSE ON SRI LANKA CONTACT GROUP MEETING,
SEPTEMBER 27

REF: A. SECSTATE 149054

1B. BERN 1626

Classified By: Poloff Eric Lundberg, Reasons 1.4 b/d

1.(C) Per ref A request, Poloff spoke again to Swiss DFA South Asia desk officer Boris Richard concerning Swiss plans for the September 27 contact group meeting in Washington. Richard responded to the description of the planned agenda with a suggestion that the meeting lay out participants' intentions regarding the frequency and level of future meetings. The Swiss have not yet identified the level or focus of their delegation; these decisions would be made based on what officials other countries planned to send. Poloff offered to contact SCA to find out.

2.(C) The Swiss understand that the contact group will focus on the financing and arms smuggling to the Tamil Tigers, Richard assured. The Swiss are not looking for this particular contact group to serve as a forum for human rights or the peace process. However, Richard left open the possibility that at some point the Swiss might propose the creation of a group to deal with the "human security" issues.

Comment

3.(C) As noted in ref B, the Swiss bottom line has been to maintain their ability to engage both sides of the conflict. We are encouraged that Swiss officials understand the financing/arms-smuggling focus of the contact group, but anticipate some push by the Swiss to promote "human security" issues -- in this or another forum. In order to harness Switzerland -- with its banks and significant Tamil refugee community -- to the process, some gesture on our part in their direction could be fruitful.

URBAN